

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
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14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A method of inspecting a drilling riser, the method comprising the steps of:  
The method according to claim 16, comprising the step of

(a) lowering the drilling riser from a platform into seawater and allowing the seawater to enter the riser;

(b) disconnecting a lower marine riser package of the drilling riser from a blowout preventer and flushing an inner diameter of the drilling riser with a fluid prior to deploying the an inspection apparatus;

(c) deploying the inspection apparatus on a line into the drilling riser, the inspection apparatus including at least one acoustical transducer;

(d) centralizing the apparatus in the drilling riser with the transducer spaced inward from a wall of the riser by an annular clearance; and

(e) periodically causing the transducer to emit an acoustical signal through the seawater in the annular clearance and into the wall of the drilling riser and detecting a return acoustical signal from the wall of the drilling riser.

18. (Currently amended) A method of inspecting a drilling riser, the method comprising the steps of:~~The method according to claim 16, wherein step (b) further comprises placing the transducer within a housing, and wherein step (d) further comprises emitting the acoustical signal through the housing.~~

(a) lowering the drilling riser from a platform into seawater and allowing the seawater to enter the riser;

(b) deploying an inspection apparatus on a line into the drilling riser, the inspection apparatus including at least one acoustical transducer placed within a housing;

(c) centralizing the apparatus in the drilling riser with the transducer spaced inward from a wall of the riser by an annular clearance; and

(d) periodically causing the transducer to emit an acoustical signal through the housing and through the seawater in the annular clearance and into the wall of the drilling riser and detecting a return acoustical signal from the wall of the drilling riser.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18, further comprising filling the housing with a liquid and equalizing pressure within the housing with hydrostatic pressure of seawater in the riser.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein the at least one transducer of step (c**b**) further comprises:

a pair of weld volume inspection transducers including a TOFD transmitter transducer adapted to transmit the acoustical signal through a weld volume, and a TOFD receiver transducer positioned adjacent to and spaced apart from the first TOFD transmitter transducer along a longitudinal axis of the inspection apparatus and adapted to receive a portion of the acoustical

signal, the weld volume inspection transducers rotating during inspection at a circumscribed diameter that is less than the inner diameter of the drilling riser; and

a plurality of fixedly mounted non-rotating wall inspection transducers adapted to transmit a second acoustical signal and to receive at least a portion of the second acoustical signal to determine wall thickness while deploying the inspection apparatus.

21. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein step (e) is performed while not rotating the wall inspection transducers relative to the housing and the drilling riser.

22. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the at least one transducer of step (b) further comprises a weld volume inspection transducer including a TOFD transmitter transducer adapted to transmit the acoustical signal through a weld volume and a TOFD receiver transducer adapted to receive a portion of the acoustical signal, the weld volume inspection transducer rotating during inspection at a circumscribed diameter that is less than the inner diameter of the drilling riser.

23. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein the at least one transducer of step (b) further comprises a plurality of fixedly mounted non-rotating wall inspection transducers adapted to transmit an acoustical signal and to receive at least a portion of the acoustical signal to determine wall thickness while deploying the inspection apparatus.

24. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein step (d) is performed while not rotating the wall inspection transducers relative to the housing and the drilling riser.